

INTERVIEW WITH MR. AND MRS. VALENZUELA, AND
DAUGHTER, DIANE

April 19, 1977

Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

- - and - -

Ms. Melanie Rothschild

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Valenzuela

Dodson: Now sir, I wonder if you could give us your name. In fact both of you and tell us how long how you've live in the Valley.

Mr. Valenzuela: Uh, my name is Manuel Valenzuela. I've live in the Valley 40 years. I was born here and raised here.

Dodson: What part of the Valley were you born at?

Mr. Valenzuela: I was born in North Hollywood.

Dodson: Is that your wife, tell us uh, maybe you'd want tell us how long you've lived here.

Mrs. Valenzula: My name is Evelyn (?) Valenzuela and uh I was born in Burbank and I really don't know how long I've lived here.

Dodson: Well, you could let (?)

Mrs. Valenzuela: (?) 12 years old, in Burbank

Dodson: I see. Plus we have one other member of the family here. And uh, we actually would wanna know how long she'd lived here.

Diane Valenzuela: Uh, 19 years.

Dodson: And your name is . . . ?

Diane Valenzuela: Diane.

Dodson: Fine. Thank you Diane. Now, we were wondering if you could tell us something about your early education in the Valley. What schools you went to and perhaps what the names of some of your teachers and what sort of things do you study. You remember some of those things ?

Mr. Valenzuela: Well, uh, well it's been a long time but I did like uh . . . Grammar school I went to Roscoe at that time I was in Sun Valley.

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And then we transferred over to Camilla, it was easier for us to go to school. From there I graduated to Sun Valley Junior High and I went to North Hollywood High School and of course I did leave school at the age of 17. Got married at that age. And some of the teachers uh . . . I think I still can remember my principal in Grammar School which is Collier(?) and principal in uh Sun Valley was Mr. Coslow(?), in North Hollywood High, I just kinda forgot who it was. But I did leave uh high school at a really, really early age though to get married.

Dodson: Uh, you've uh you've had some uh daughters and sons that are in school, you think that their education had been different from yours?

Mr. Valenzuela: Uh, not really. I think in a way yes because there's more kids in their classroom now than it used to be before specially in this area. Uh, I think they are a little bit crowded and when I was going to school there was not many kids. At the most maybe 26 (in a class).

Dodson: What about discipline in the schools?

Mr. Valenzuela: I think there was more discipline in my day. Today is much different.

Dodson: Do you have a comment, Diane?

Diane: (Laughter) When I met him . . . I think they were a little more strict. You couldn't get away with anything. I think if I could send my kids to Catholic schools, I would.

Mr. Valenzuela: I began at a Catholic school.

Dodson: The school that I went to was very strong on religion. In fact, there was a great deal of praying. Is that the way it was in your school?

Diane: No, but you went to church. (In school) there was a great deal of marching from the classroom to the grotto. It was like being in the army, I think.

Melanie: That's how I felt. We had to march every morning out there. Did you have any prayers?

Mr. Valenzuela: No, no, nothing like that. We did pledge allegiance. But as for prayers, we left them at home.

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Dodson: That could be one of the differences between a parochial school and a public school. . . (the matter of praying). I think court decisions now would not allow us to have any prayers in (public) school. We've reached a point now where we cannot make a citizen comply if he doesn't want to. You can ask a student to rise and pledge allegiance; but if he doesn't want to, you cannot make him. So that would be a difference.

Mr. Valenzuela: That's true. We (in the Catholic schools) have still a a great deal of respect for our flag. I think a lot of our kids have respect for the flag and for our country. You'd be dismissed if you didn't. And our parents would be called to the school. I don't think anyone would want their parents called for that reason.

Dodson: Did I ask if they saluted the flag in your school (Diane)?.

Mrs. Valenzuela: No, if they didn't want to.

Dodson: They didn't have to?

Mrs. Valenzuela: No, they didn't have to.

Dodson: Did most of them stand up.

Mrs. Valenzuela: No

Melanie: What school did you go to?

Diane: . . .

Dodson: One thing we ask about is what was the common form of amusement?

(laughter by all)

Mr. Valenzuela Well, I'll tell ya. Ha, ha. As for our teenagers, we had gatherings on Friday nights. Get together at a house. A sort of a little clubhouse. We had a lot of fun. A little alcohol now and then. From there I got away from . . . This wasn't what I really wanted. I was more interested in automobiles. At the age of 16 I had my own automobile. I started to race. Up to this day I like racing but I suppose I can't do it. I'm a married man now. That was my thing. I love racing.

Dodson: You liked partying?

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Mr. Valenzuela: Yes, I did. I liked going to the theater. Back in the 40s we'd take a bus to North Hollywood where the theaters were. That was about a mile and a half away. I would catch a bus. If we got out late, we'd have to walk all the way home. Back in the 50s there were more movies in theaters closer by. Only about three blocks away.

Melanie: What movie theaters?

Mr. Valenzuela: El Portel and the Valley, the Galla (?) there now.

Dodson: What about you, Diane? I bet you didn't go racing.

Mrs. Valenzuela: (laughter). Racing. I used to go with him and take care of all his tools and sit on his tires until he was ready for them.

Dodson: You were the tester.

Diane: Ha, ha.

Dodson: You were the test expert.

Mrs. Valenzuela: Right.

Dodson: Did you like dancing?

Mrs. Valenzuela: Yes. There was never no alcohol, as he said. Up to this day we don't drink at all.

Mr. Valenzuela: Well, we do.

Mrs. Valenzuela: We liked boys' parties. . . parents allowed the kids to have a party. . . They were around all the time. . .

Dodson: Do you know the names of any of the dances?

Mrs. Valenzuela: Oh, my God. The Algonquin (?). . . The Swan (?). . . the Twist. . . (laughter)

Dodson: There must be something very amusing to find out . . .

Mr. Valenzuela: The Twist . . . This was at the time of the Johnny Rays . . . Negro music was the popular music in our day.

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Dodson: How about the music of that day? Was this when the Aragon Ballroom was popular? Did people out here go there?

Mr. Valenzuela: The Aragon Ballroom was mostly in the '40s. That was my brother's age. We never got to go. Later on they had their own dance halls out here. . .

Dodson: That burned down fairly recently?

Mr. Valenzuela: Yes, about six or seven years ago. I remember going out there but I never went in.

Melanie: Are there any particular restaurants?

Mr. Valenzuela: Oh, yes. Our Wednesday night cruise nighty hangouts in Van Nuys. Oh, yes, is Bob's. We used to go to the River Bank. But that was where when we went to race. And that was right after Bob's. We'd meet there and go to the River Bank. We didn't go to swim but to race.

Melanie: And that was where?

Mr. Valenzuela: Bob's on Venice Blvd. We also used to go to Bob's in Burbank. Also Hody's at the corner of Oxnard and Lankershim. That was another one of our hangouts.

Melanie: (laughter)

Mr. Valenzuela: There's a gas station there now. Catercorner from Toco Bell.

Dodson: You mention Cruise Night. This isn't something new, then?

Mr. Valenzuela: This was back in the Fifties. We'd meet at Bob's. We'd have our racing cars and we'd see someone we like. And we'd ask them if they would like to go racing. We'd get out there on Sepulveda and block the road. There was no traffic.

Dodson: Cruise Night then met racing?

Mr. Valenzuela: Racing . . .

Melanie: This was when?

Mr. Valenzuela: I don't know how long Cruise Night has been but we started back in the Fifties. We'd go straight to Bob's. . . Kids from over the

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hill, from Hollywood, would come over and race against us. Back in the Sixties the police department got together with the Valley and started street racing . . . what was like drag racing. We were supposed to go to Sepulveda Dam . . . Instead of that it wound up in San Fernando drag strip. We did it for about 15 years, then San Fernando said it was too noisy. So they took it away from us. I don't think they knew what we were doing. That is, block the streets and . . .

Dodson: I suppose now it would be up to the police department?

Mr. Valenzuela: Yes, I would say it would be hard to do it now.
..

Dodson: This is the first time that Cruise Night has come up. People would wonder what it the world it means. Would you tell us or would you like Diane to tell us? ha. ha. Diane, what is Cruise Night. Explain it to us?

Diane: ... ha. ha.

Dodson: That's confusing. Now, you're going to have to tell us several things. Your talking to somebody who doesn't know.

Diane: (muffled ha ha's)_

Mr. Valenzuela: I find it kinda amusing. It brings back old memories. Cruise Night everybody does out there, like my daughter says, to look at the boys. All kinds of kids out there to show off their cars. All kinds of cars. We used to race in them. I think they go out there to show off their cars. I find it that they get out there to show each other off. Low riders . . . all kinds of cars . I don't find anything wrong with Cruise Night. I liked to get out there. A lot of traffic.

Diane: They would lower their cars.

Mr. Valenzuela: Yes, they used to lower their cars to race them. But I find they'd get out there to chew each other off. I don't think there's anything wrong. I used to enjoy getting out there. There was a lot of traffic. The merchants would complain. But it is better than having kids just walking the streets. Venice Blvd. We'd have a lot of fun.

Dodson: You'd just ride up and down the street?

Mr. Valenzuela: Yes, they ride up and down the street. They whistle at each other. There just showing off. They are not getting into trouble. As a matter of fact, I've got a niece who is getting married to a boy she met on Cruise Night. They'll be married next month. The boy is from Long Beach. He happened to meet her on Cruise Night. You might say it is more like Lovers Lane.

Dodson: And this (Cruise Night) takes place every Wednesday night on Van Nuys Blvd.?

Mr. Valenzuela: They drive all the way from Sherman Way down to Bob's, located on Magnolia, I believe. So they drive all the way from Sherman Way to Magnolia, back and forth. They visit the gas stations.

Dodson: I'm glad to get this put down on paper, because not another soul has mentioned it. Everybody we meet tells us something we've not heard before. This enables us to make a complete picture of what the Valley was like. Can you tell us what sort of a religious life you had?

Mr. Valenzuela: Well, yes, I can tell you. We were pretty religious when we were kids. As a matter of fact, we used to walk a mile to go to church. Every Sunday we used to walk from where I now live now in North Hollywood to Sun Valley, which used to be called Roscoe. . . . I used to be Catholic but my neighbor was Episcopatian. So I changed and had lots of fun.

Dodson: I don't know whether we should have that on tape or not.

Mr. Valenzuela: I did change my religion as a result of my walking. There was catechism on Saturday . . .

Melanie: What about ~~our~~ others?

Mr. Valenzuela: My father-in-law Most of my neighbors have died or moved away or moved out of the area. . There used to be a mission, a Spanish church. Then we got the English mass.

Melanie: Did they do that to build up membership?

Mr. Valenzuela: Yes,

Dodson: I'm curious if your wife did . . .

Mr. Valen: Very little, if any. I don't recall any of it. . . . I don't remember any vandalism that went on.

Diane: If you disagree, speak up.

(laughter)

Dodson: We'll interview her later, if we can't get her to speak up now, would you tell us about your vocational aims when you went to school. What did you want to be?

Mr. Valen: When I was in high school, I wanted to be (an English teacher.)

Dodson: What did you say when he said that? (Addressed to Mrs. Valen.)

Mrs. Valen: (laughter)

Dodson: In an English class they'd teach you 'this is the subject, this is the predicate' all that kind of things. . . . You have to be sure your tenses are right. By the time you've analyzed a sentence that way, you're not speaking very fluently. They would teach it

Mr. Valen: Yes, that's right.

Mrs. Valen: (laughter)

Diane: I hated it.

Dodson: What did you say, when she said that.

Mr. Valen: I try to tell the kids to learn. . . . You find a lot of people talking Spanish. . . . They think there's something wrong with you. I tell them I was born here. A different generation. I tell the kids.

Dodson: That brings up something else. From what I've been reading, some of the Spanish speakers in Central Los Angeles are very much opposed to busing. They would like to learn there (where they live) and to have the language and traditions taught there. How do you feel about that?

Mr. Valen: I don't think that busing is done for the benefit of the children. I don't think its healthy for kids to be transferred from the Valley to East Los Angeles. I think that kids are more comfortable where they are. I don't think busing is a good

Mrs. Valen: Right, I followed him again. ha, ha. We got married in his church. It wasn't as big as the one on Lankershim but that wasn't his church.

Dodson: Then, it didn't bother you to change from a Catholic Church to an Episcopal Church?

Mrs. Valen: It didn't bother me but it did my mom and my dad for a time.. They were used to their old church. But I wanted to be with him. I married him and will follow him wherever he goes. It never bothered me.

Dodson: Can you tell us whether the Catholic Church has felt any hostility toward that church since it came into that area? Has there been anything like that in the history of the church?

Mrs. Valen: I could say.

Mr. Valen: In our days, yes. The Protestants moving in, yes. We did have our problems. It was mainly the kids. They would break into the church. . . Finally the people got used to it. They realized that as they grow up there was nothing wrong with the church. The problem was mainly in their heads. The people were able to put up with it. And the problem gradually wore out.

Dodson: So now there's no problem?

Mr. Valen: No problem. As a matter of fact, there's a Catholic school there and the priesthood . . .

Dodson: Was this area that we're now in largely Catholic to begin with, when you first moved into it?

Mr. Valen: Yes, yes, especially where Reyes lives. That . . . In those days Lankershim was only a two-lane road and there was a little store at the corner of Lankershim and . . . And if you wanted to go to a supermarket, you'd have to go to Ralphs in Glendale. And I believe there was a Safeway in Sun Valley. My parents used to go shopping in Los Angeles at the central market. . . That was a long way to go shopping.

Dodson: Then there were not many stores here that amounted to much?

Mr. Valen: No, there were no supermarkets at all. You have to go to Van Nuys, Sun Valley or North Hollywood.

Dodson: About what year would this be?

Mr. Valen: I would say about the Forties. . . In the Fifties we had a lot of things, shopping centers, theaters . . .

Dodson: It's my understanding there was a big surge of population after the war, World War II . . . Maybe that's what brought in the stores..

Nr, Valen. Very probably, yes, because before this there were very few stores, gas stations ... You'd never catch anyone walking at night.

Dodson: Did you have very much crime then, at that time?

Mr. Valen: No, there used to be fighting but not the violence like we have now. Kids killing each other. But not adults killing as it is now. In the Fifties things got worse. You probably hear of the zuitsuiters . . . There were problems but not like what we have now. The zoot suiters came in.

Dodson: The zoot suiters?

Mr. Valen: They wore plain clothes and hat with feather in back, baggy pants, long coat with chain hanging from the side. They were sort of like a gang.

Melanie: Students from the area joined?

Mr. Valen: Yes, more like a gang. Nothing real big. These were just kids.

Dodson: Would you say that there is now more serious crime in the Valley than during the Forties?

Mr. Valen: Yes, yes, quite a bit I think. Maybe it's because of the population figures. More kids now.

Dodson: You feel that the kids are the primary source of the crime?

Mr. Valen: Well, . . . I think they contribute quite a bit to it. Yes. I think that kids under 24 don't think much of bugarlizing places.

Dodson: Incidentally, we hear a lot about vandalism now.

Was there any vandalism when you went to school?

Mr. Valen: Very little, if any. I don't recall any of it. . . . I don't remember any vandalism that went on.

Diane: If you disagree, speak up.

(laughter)

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Mr. Valen: I don't think that busing is done for the benefit of the children. I don't think it's healthy for kids to be transferred from the Valley to East Los

Angeles. I think that kids are more comfortable where they are. I don't think busing is a good thing. I don't think it benefits the kids at all. They spend an hour going from home to school and another hour going from school to home.

Dodson: Now, we'll put down a little outline of things we thought were changes in the Valley. I think we've mentioned a little about the appearance of the Valley, so many people and all of that. We have fashions, down here. Do you see much change in the type of clothes people wear, between you date and now? From when you went to school . . .

Mr. Valen: I think we're really going back and forth. Right now you don't have to dress up to be casual. You can go into a exclusive restaurant in the Valley. There were days when they would look at you if you did such a thing. And if you went into a dance all you had . . . Now they don't care. I like it better now.

Dodson: You prefer that? But how about your wife? Did you ever wear a slack suit and jeans, when you went to school?

Mrs. Valen: Yes, I did. Bobby sox and petticoats

Dodson: I would imagine they would be requiring long skirts.

Mrs. Valen: No. Petticoats and bobby sox. Of course, they wouldn't like it if you were real sloppy. . . patches and . . . that part I don't like.

Dodson: You feel it has become a little too casual from your point of view?

Mrs. Valen: Mm . . . yes, I do. Like in the summer you see the girls off to school. I wouldn't like my daughter to be dressed that way. hugger pants. I ask, Are you going to school that way or what?

Dodson: How do you feel about it, Diane?

Diane: As long as you feel comfortable . . . I like it.

Dodson: Maybe your parents are finding out things they didn't know before. Would you let her out of the house, if you thought she was wearing some . . .

Diane: What I mean, I see all the sides of the kids . . . Their parents are sort of old fashioned . . . They don't like to show their stomachs. They're sort of

old fashioned. If they won't wear halters, I know they won't go that far

Dodson: What do you think about fads. Are you aware of any fads that have been common in the Valley since you've lived her. When I think of fads I think of swallowing live gold fish and how many people can get into a telephone booth at one time. I don't know what the expression would mean to you.

Mr. Valen: Gosh, I don't know . . . It's hard to answer that one.

Mrs. Valen: Like walking up to the mountains and walking back. Swallowing raw fish . . . I never heard of . . .

Dodson: Do you think, Melanie, of anything along that line you would suggest?

Melanie: No, I was trying to figure . . .

Dodson: You might think of the hula hoops . . . Just now we've got a skateboard fad, you might say.

Melanie: Hum . . .

Dodson: Think of things that kids were doing that were common for a time and past out and nobody did it again.

Melanie: . . .

Valen: Sneakers. I thought that was something new.

Dodson: Every time that happened in the Valley I happened to be somewhere else. (laughter) I have a couple of picture at the Museum of couple of ourf students sneaking across the campus. But I was never there when it happened. Did you see it?

Diane: No but I did see pictures in the papers and on the newstands. It was pretty bad when there was a bunch of girls in a farmhouse and a guy runs through.

Dodson: Did that ever happen at your high school?

Diane: I sure it did. The guys, not the girls.

Mrs. Valen: They stick the bottom half out of the window of a car.. .

Valen: I never remember hearing about it in the 50s. The

70s I heard about it, but not in the 50s..Yet I had kids come and ask me about it In fact, they made a movie of it.

Dodson: Apparently I don't get around much.

Daine: May I ask you a question. Have you ever driven down Van Nuys Blvd. on Thursday nights

Mrs. Valen: I find it rather spooky.

Dodson: I frequently ask about things I personally don't know much about.

Valen: Anything they can drive down the street. There was a fire engine going down the street last week. The kids use anything that they can get their hands on. They get their parents' car and get out there. Even a skateboard. Bicycle. It's amazing.

Daine: (a bicycle with a large front wheel)

Dodson: Maybe I've been missing something I knew nothing about... This is one of the advantages of these interviews. I'm getting an education myself. Another thing we ask people about are the changes in morality, since they were teenagers themselves to the present. One thing the older people agreed on is that there never was any use of narcotics in their day. They didn't use them themselves and didn't know of anybody who did. You come from a little different generation from many of the people we interview. Was there any use of narcotics when you were in school?

Valen: Okay . As far as the 50s, marijuana and like sniffing gas. I don't think it was what they were thinking. Once somebody started. Everybody started. It was like sniffing gas. Benzedrine We used to buy a can at Thrifty. . . Now they smoke glue. As far as marijuana, it was but not as bad.

Dodson: This would be in the 50s?

Valen: Yes, this would be in the 50s. As the years came up, . . . As for the 70s, you walk down the street Things are out of hand.

Dodson: I think you told us there was some drinking.

Valen: Cheap wine. Various people get drunk.

Dodson: Do you have anything to add on that, Diane?

Diane:

Dodson: Is there anything else you think has been a change in more questions between the time you were in school, either of you? Both of you, for that matter.

. ; .

Dodson: I've been a college counselor for a long time and I've learned not to be surprised when a couple of my fellow counselors were living together without being married. Was this common in your day?

Valen: No. They're more open out it (today). Whatever they're speaking about they do it. And schools ... go along with it. Whatever makes them happy. In our day . . . they wanted to know why. And you'd better not come back. We kinda stick with our parents. Now kids are more open. They talk about sex. We'd never talked about sex.

Dodson: Do you feel that's a good or bad change?

Valen: Well, thirty years ago . . . Well let's put it this way. I wish I knew now when I was a kid. I know that my kids know more than I did when I was a kid. They have a better education. Some things are being misused. They are taking advantage because they know everything. I know my kids know a hellav lot more than I did.

Dodson: Would feel that your communication with your children is freer than your parents' communication with you on these subjects?

Valen: Absolutely, yes. I do ask my kids if they have anything they would like to talk to me about. If I don't know I'd ask somebody else. Never to be afraid to ask. We never asked our parents anything or talked about. Married at 17. I had to make my own living. It wasn't easy. Nowadays it's easy. If you don't understand . . .

Dodson: Now under the heading of politics, as I indicated to you, I'm interested in knowing what your attitude is about the Valley becoming a separate city. This is one of the current issues here in the Valley. Most people I've talked to have an opinion one way or the other.

Valen: Well, I don't know . . . I think with guidance the

Valley can do a lot of things. I think the Valley is big enough. I think a lot of money is going to other areas of Los Angeles that could be used for our schools. The library in Los Angeles we don't . . . We have to pay for it. I think if we get away from Los Angeles we could save money, because we're not in a building program. .

Dodson: Do you think that the Valley might be taxed a great deal to pay for improvements that are here that the city might feel they owned? That might be harmful.

Valen: Well, you can only build so much in the Valley and the Valley is pretty much filled up. You can't put more schools. Anything that will maintain the Valley. Now they're building in other areas and we're going to have to pay for it. Look at Burbank. . .

Dodson: One thing I'm not sure about is what it would do to the water situation. Whether Los Angeles would have control of the water. We may or may not be able to get sufficient water. This is what forced the Valley to annex to Los Angeles in the first place.

Valen: That's true. A lot of the other towns have the same problem. That's more like blackmail. Forcing us to stay with them in order to have the water. . The water should belong to everybody.

Dodson: I discovered that Los Angeles had a claim to the water in the Los Angeles River, because King Charles Third of Spain, I think it was, granted back in the 18th Century the rights to the water in the Los Angeles River to the pueblo of Los Angeles. So if you weren't part of the pueblo you couldn't use any of the water in the Los Angeles River. That proved one of the main factors causing Los Angeles to go in. And then Los Angeles brought in the Owens Valley water. And I guess that was the final thing causing the Valley to go in. So I don't know if the Valley now could get any water without being a part of Los Angeles. So that would be a very important thing.

Valen: We couldn't live in the Valley without the water. There would clearly be a problem then. Other than that, you know . . .

Dodson: We have enough industry and wealth that we could get along.

Valen: Yes,

Dodson: Is there anything in the history of the Valley that you wish hadn't happened . . . that brought you any special regret?

Valen: Well there are a lot of things that have changed in the Valley. I always dreaded it but ...Things that came from nowhere. You used to be able to go a couple of miles Now wherever you go there are a lot of people. You're surrounded by the city.

Dodson: You'd like to see a few open spaces?

Valen: Yes, I certainly would.

Dodson: On the other hand, is there anything in the Valley you look back on with special pleasure?

Valen: You mean as far as the history ?

Dodson: Of course, I asked that of someone and one fellow mentioned his marriage. (laughter).

Valen: It seems like so many things came overnight. . . You look back and . . . It seems like all you got is the memories.

Mrs. Valen: There used to be so many things going . . . at the church. The blessing of the animals.

Valen: A couple of times it was the blessing of the food and the water. ..We used to take our animals to be blessed.

Dodson: They still do in downtown Los Angeles.

Valen: I was looking at the paper the other day. It seems that we gotten away from this. It seems to me that that was useful.

Dodson: That seems one of the things you've lost when you no longer follow old traditions. Now to your mknowledge . . .

Valen:

on.

Diane: If you disagree, speak up.

(laughter)

Dodson: We'll interview her later, if we can't get her to speak up now. Would you tell us about your vocational aims when you went to school. What did you want to be?

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Daine: May I ask you a question. Have you ever driven down Van Nuys Blvd. on Thursday nights

Mrs. Valen: I find it rather spooky.

Dodson: I frequently ask about things I personally don't know much about.

Valen: Anything they can drive down the street. There was a fire engine going down the street last week. The kids use anything that they can get their hands on. They get their parents' car and get out there. Even a skateboard. Bicycle. It's amazing.

Daine: (a bicycle with a large front wheel)

Dodson: Maybe I've been missing something. I knew nothing about... This is one of the advantages of these interviews. I'm getting an education myself. Another thing we ask people about are the changes in morality, since they were teenagers themselves to the present. One thing the older people agreed on is that there never was any use of narcotics in their day. They didn't use them themselves and didn't know of anybody who did. You come from a little different generation from many of the people we interview. Was there any use of narcotics when you were in school?

Valen: Okay. As far as the 50s, marijuana and like sniffing gas. I don't think it was what they were thinking. Once somebody started. Everybody started. It was like sniffing gas. Benzedrine. We used to buy a can at Thrifty. . . Now they smoke glue. As far as marijuana, it was but not as bad.

Dodson: This would be in the 50s?

Valen: Yes, this would be in the 50s. As the years came up, . . . As for the 70s, you walk down the street. Things are out of hand.

Dodson: I think you told us there was some drinking.

Valen: Cheap wine. Various people get drunk.

thing. I don't think it benefits the kids at all. They spend an hour going from home to school and another hour going from school to home.

Dodson: Now, we'll put down a little outline of things we thought were changes in the Valley. I think we've mentioned a little about the appearance of the Valley, so many people and all of that. We have fashions, down here. Do you see much change in the type of clothes people wear, between you date and now? From when you went to school . . .

Mr. Valen: I think we're really going back and forth. Right now you don't have to dress up to be casual. You can go into a exclusive restaurant in the Valley. There were days when they would look at you if you did such a thing. And if you went into a dance all you had . . . Now they don't care. I like it better now.

Dodson: You prefer that. But how about your wife? Did you ever wear a slack suit and jeans, when you went to school?

Mrs. Valen: Yes, I did. Bobby sox and petticoats

Dodson: I would imagine they would be requiring long skirts.

Mrs. Valen: No. Petticoats and bobby sox. Of course, they wouldn't like it if you were real sloppy. . . patches and . . . that part I don't like.

Dodson: You feel it has become a little too casual from your point of view?

Mrs. Valen: Mm . . . yes, I do. Like in the summer you see the girls off to school. I wouldn't like my daughter to be dressed that way. hugger pants. Ha. I ask, Are you going to school that way or what?

Dodson: How do you feel about it, Diane?

Diane: As long as you feel comfortable . . . I like it.

Dodson: Maybe your parents are finding out things they didn't know before. Would you let her out of the house, if you thought she was wearing some . . .

Diane: What I mean, I see all the sides of the kids . . . Their parents are sort of old fashioned . . . They don't like to show their stomachs. They're sort of old fashioned.

Dodson: Do you have anything to add on that, Diane?

Diane:

Dodson: Is there anything else you think has been a change in more questions between the time you were in school, either of you? Both of you, for that matter.

. ; .

Dodson: I've been a college counselor for a long time and I've learned not to be surprised when a couple of my fellow counselors were living together without being married. Was this common in your day?

Valen: No. They're more open out it (today). Whatever they're speaking about they do it. And schools ... go along with it. Whatever makes them happy. In our day . . . they wanted to know why. And you'd better not come back. We kinda stick with our parents. Now kids are more open. They talk about sex. We'd never talked about sex.

Dodson: Do you feel that's a good or bad change?

Valen: Well, thirty years ago . . . Well let's put it this way. I wish I knew now when I was a kid. I know that my kids know more than I did when I was a kid. They have a better education. Some things are being misused. They are taking advantage because they know everything. I know my kids know a hellav lot more than I did.

Dodson: Would feel that your communication with your children is freer than your parents' communication with you on these subjects?

Valen: Absolutely, yes. I do ask my kids if they have anything they would like to talk to me about. If I don't know I'd ask somebody else. Never to be afraid to ask. We never asked our parents anything or talked about. Married at 17 I had to make my own living. It wasn't easy. Nowadays it's easy. If you don't understand . . .

Dodson: Now under the heading of politics, as I indicated to you, I'm interested in knowing what your attitude is about the Valley becoming a separate city. This is one of the current issues here in the Valley. Most people I've talked to have an opinion one way or the other.

Valen: Well, I don't know . . . I think with guidance the

Valley can do a lot of things. I think the Valley is big enough. I think a lot of money is going to other areas of Los Angeles that could be used for our schools. The library in Los Angeles we don't . . . We have to pay for it. I think if we get away from Los Angeles we could save money, because we're not in a building program. .

Dodson: Do you think that the Valley might be taxed a great deal to pay for improvements that are here that the city might feel they owned? That might be harmful.

Valen: Well, you can only build so much in the Valley and the Valley is pretty much filled up. You can't put more schools. Anything that will maintain the Valley. Now they're building in other areas and we're going to have to pay for it. Look at Burbank. . .

Dodson: One thing I'm not sure about is what it would do to the water situation. Whether Los Angeles would have control of the water. We may or may not be able to get sufficient water. This is what forced the Valley to annex to Los Angeles in the first place.

Valen: That's true. A lot of the other towns have the same problem. That's more like blackmail. Forcing us to stay with them in order to have the water. .
. The water should belong to everybody.

Dodson: I discovered that Los Angeles had a claim to the water in the Los Angeles River, because King Charles Third of Spain, I think it was, granted back in the 18th Century the rights to the water in the Los Angeles River to the pueblo of Los Angeles. So if you weren't part of the pueblo you couldn't use any of the water in the Los Angeles River. That proved one of the main factors causing Los Angeles to go in. And then Los Angeles brought in the Owens Valley water. And I guess that was the final thing causing the Valley to go in. So I don't know if the Valley now could get any water without being a part of Los Angeles. So that would be a very important thing.

Valen: We couldn't live in the Valley without the water. There would clearly be a problem then. Other than that, you know . . .

Dodson: We have enough industry and wealth that we could get along.

Valen: Yes,

Dodson: Is there anything in the history of the Valley that you wish hadn't happened . . . that brought you any special regret?

Valen: Well there are a lot of things that have changed in the Valley. I always dreaded it but ...Things that came from nowhere. You used to be able to go a couple of miles Now wherever you go there are a lot of people. You're surrounded by the city.

Dodson: You'd like to see a few open spaces?

Valen: Yes, I certainly would.

Dodson: On the other hand, is there anything in the Valley you look back on with special pleasure?

Valen: You mean as far as the history ?

Dodson: Of course, I asked that of someone and one fellow mentioned his marriage. (laughter).

Valen: It seems like so many things came overnight. . . You look back and . . . It seems like all you got is the memories.

Mrs. Valen: There used to be so many things going . . . at the church. The blessing of the animals.

Valen: A couple of times it was the blessing of the food and the water. ..We used to take our animals to be blessed.

Dodson: They still do in downtown Los Angeles.

Valen: I was looking at the paper the other day. It seems that we gotten away from this. It seems to me that that was useful.

Dodson: That seems one of the things you've lost when you no longer follow old traditions. Now to your knowledge . . .

Valen: